

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Film Group's **MFM PRODUCTION FUND** is designed to assist Winnipeg Film Group members in the development of their artistic careers by providing support towards the production of film projects in the form of cash and service awards.

This award fund is geared to filmmakers who have made at least one independent production (on film, video or digital media) as director or artist / creator.

The **MFM PRODUCTION FUND** has two rounds annually, one in the spring and one in the fall. Applications for production and post-production components are considered during both rounds, but each individual application must be for one component only.

FUNDING SUPPORT: This program will provide cash grants in one of two increments: \$1,000 or \$2,000. Winnipeg Film Group services will be awarded in similar increments. The maximum award available to a project during any one application round is \$2,000 in cash and \$2,000 in services. The sum available for this award is \$4,000 in cash and \$4,000 in Winnipeg Film Group services.

Additionally, applicants are eligible to apply for a William F. White production equipment package award through this program.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To assist members to create film, video or digital projects
2. To assist members to use film, video and / or digital media as a means of artistic expression
3. To assist members to further develop their careers as filmmakers
4. To contribute to the overall development of filmmakers in Manitoba

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- A Winnipeg Film Group member in good standing
- A Resident of Manitoba
- Those who have completed at least one independent work as director or artist/creator (on film, video or digital media)

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS (continued)

- The independent work **must not** be a student project, assignment or activity issued by a teacher or professor from a University, College or other preparatory related school
- Director / Creator of the proposed project, who has and will retain full artistic and editorial control
- Applicants who have not completed at least one independent film or video as director / creator can apply to the post-production phase of the MFM Production Fund, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements and submit a complete application
- Applicants who do not already have an open MFM Production Fund, MFM First Film Fund or Hothouse Award; an award is considered closed when a final report has been received, along with a digital file or film print that has been approved by the Winnipeg Film Group.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Eligibility is limited to projects where other funding sources do not compromise the artist's creative control.
- Priority is given to proposals from artists whose work demonstrates the development of an individual style or an expressive approach and / or a commitment to questioning and expanding the formal language of the medium.
- Projects finished on film or any broadcast quality video / digital format can be considered.
- Projects seeking post production funding must submit a rough cut (digital file or film print) of the project in question, along with their application.
- Projects can be submitted for consideration to each component of the Production Fund (production or post production) up to two times only. Once a project has been awarded any funding or services from one component, the project cannot be resubmitted to the same component for further funding or services.
- Narrative, experimental, documentary and hybrid/ mixed-genre works will be considered.

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Projects commissioned by any government agency or private company
- Projects where the director / artist-creator does not have or retain full artistic control

- Instructional projects
- Music videos
- Projects of a strictly commercial or promotional nature
- Industrial projects
- Projects that have received funding support from the Winnipeg Film Group's Hothouse or MFM First Film Fund

8. A résumé detailing relevant training and / or artistic activity and experience.
 9. Letters of agreement pertaining to the use of any material included in the project where copyright is not held directly by the applicant (ie: script, images, music, etc.).
 10. Where appropriate, documentary proposals should be supported by a letter of agreement from the subject(s) confirming the applicant's access to the proposed materials.
 11. Supporting audio/visual materials are mandatory (up to 2 max., digital file or film print):
 - Independent projects where the applicant holds credit as director and / or creator, and which demonstrate the artistic vision.
 - One piece (idea, concept or theme) per file or print submission. **Demo Reels ARE NOT Accepted.**
 - **Without supporting material, applications will be considered incomplete.** The only exception is for applications requesting post-production funding for a first film project where no funding has been provided by the WFG for earlier components.
- All audio/visual support materials must be clearly marked with the following and should also be appropriately cued:
- (a) Applicant's name
 - (b) Applicant's role on production (ie: director)
 - (c) Project title
 - (d) Production date
 - (e) Running time
 - (f) Any special instructions for viewing the work

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following is considered a complete application package:

1. A completed and signed online application
2. A project summary: including (a) genre, (b) format, (c) length, (d) shooting location, and (e) project timeline, as well as any other production notes that may be appropriate (ie: confirmed cast and crew, etc.)
3. A description of the artistic vision of the project: including visual and sound elements (ie: director's notes, visual & sound treatment), as well as providing any other artistic context for the project that may be appropriate. ***While this section should be thorough, it should also be concise and not overly long.***
4. Script materials:
 - A one to two paragraph synopsis
 - ***For dramatic projects:*** a complete script in proper format is required, storyboards are also highly recommended
 - ***For other projects:*** a detailed conceptual plan, outline, treatment and / or storyboard, as appropriate
 - For post-production applications: a rough or fine cut of the work in-progress or a set of dailies (digital file or film print)
6. A schedule of major activities to be undertaken during the project.
7. A balanced budget, showing all expenses *and* revenues (for confirmed sources, attach proof), including deferrals and in-kind items. It is expected that the total budgeted expenses will exceed the amount requested; therefore applicants should list other sources of funding being sought.

Please note: APPLICATIONS AND SCRIPT MATERIALS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN FRENCH.

THE JURY PROCESS

Jurors are independent film / video artists, curators, or other experts in the field, recognized for their expertise and artistic accomplishment. Jury Chairs are administrative facilitators and do not have voting privileges. Jurors and Chairs cannot sit on a jury during a round for which they have submitted a Production Fund application.

In the event of conflict of interest, the jurors will self-report this to the Chair and the Chair will record this in writing. The juror in conflict will not participate in discussions related to the applicant in

question. Jury members report conflict of interest in the event they will or may benefit financially from the applicant's project. Jurors can self-identify conflict of interest for other reasons as well.

The jury decision is final and no appeals are allowed. The WFG's Board of Directors may, if requested, review the process and recorded conflict of interest process at their discretion.

Jurors use the following **THREE ESSENTIAL CRITERIA** to evaluate proposals:

1. Artistic merit of the proposed project.
2. The significance of the proposed project on the development of the applicant's artistic career
3. Whether the applicant can successfully carry out the proposed project.

Please note that the **three essential criteria** can only be assessed when an applicant has submitted a complete application package.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Applicants will receive written notification of the results approximately 10 weeks following the application deadline. Results will not be disclosed over the phone.

The jury decision is final and no appeals are allowed.

Should an individual applicant believe that a breach in process has occurred (such as an undeclared conflict of interest), the Board will conduct a review of the jury's decision-making process upon receiving a written request to do so. Such a written request should specify the breach in process which is believed to have occurred.

Following their review, the Board will notify the applicant in writing of its decision and any action taken, if any.

AWARD LOGISTICS

Requests can be submitted for funding in \$1,000 or \$2,000 increments, for cash and WFG services awards, to a total maximum request per round of \$2,000 in cash and \$2,000 in services.

Additionally, applicants can also request that their application be considered for a William F. White production equipment package award. One award is available per round.

Applicants can apply only twice to the each component of the production fund (production or post-production) for the same project. Once a project has been awarded funding from one component (either production or post production), that project cannot be submitted for consideration under the same component a second time.

Applicants can hold production funding from the Winnipeg Film Group for only one project at any given time. Production funding programs include the MFM First Film Fund and MFM Production Fund.

Cash awards are provided with a percentage withheld, contingent on receipt of a final report (including copies of expense receipts / invoices).

Services awards can ONLY be used for in-kind services provided by the Winnipeg Film Group at member rates, including equipment rentals, studio rentals and edit suite rentals.

OBLIGATIONS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Award recipients must ensure they meet the following obligations associated with their award:

1. Award recipients must carry out the production as proposed in the application; any major changes (including change of shooting and / or finishing format, as well as significant conceptual changes) must be reviewed and approved by the WFG's Production Centre Manager prior to the changes being made.
2. The **MFM PRODUCTION FUND** cannot be used for retroactive expenses. Eligible costs are those incurred after the round deadline.
3. The following screen credit must be included on all films supported through the **MFM PRODUCTION FUND**:

"This film was produced with the financial assistance of:"
followed, underneath, by
MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC's logo

4. ***NEW** - All award recipients must participate in a one-on-one meeting with **Manitoba Film & Music** during the pre-production or the production of their films. **Manitoba Film & Music** will provide information on its programs and on its screen credit requirements to each award recipient.
5. Funded projects must also provide appropriate on-screen acknowledgement to the Winnipeg Film Group as funders of the project. Electronic

Program Funder



Operating Funders



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

logo files are [available on our website](#).

6. A copy of the completed project must be submitted to the Winnipeg Film Group at the time of Final Report Submission - either as a high-res digital file or in print format. The final project will be submitted (by us) to **Manitoba Film & Music** for internal archiving purposes.
7. The award recipient will not use funding to purchase equipment, or for any other capital expenses.
8. The WFG reserves the right to showcase the production and / or the name of the award recipient, at no cost, in relation to its own promotional and member activities.
9. The award recipient **must** complete their project within 18 months of notification. After 12 months, all awards will be reviewed by the Winnipeg Film Group regarding a finish date, the award status will be re-assessed.
10. Cash awards are provided with a percentage withheld, dependent on receipt and approval of a final report (including copies of financial receipts / invoices).

Failure to submit a final report to the approval of the Production Centre Director will leave the award recipient ineligible for further funding from the Winnipeg Film Group.

FURTHER INFORMATION

INQUIRIES regarding the MFM PRODUCTION FUND and other Winnipeg Film Group production programs can be directed to:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the valuable support of **MANITOBA FILM & MUSIC** for over 10 years we have been able to assist over 200 Manitoba filmmakers create, market, and screen their films through our various Funds.

